

What is claimed is:

1. A method of transforming a plurality of shipping containers into an assembled multi-level building structure of a scale to accommodate human beings, such containers each being in the form of an enclosure having an external base wall and at least one floor extender section moveably mounted on the container,
5 said method comprising:

a) stacking two of said shipping containers atop one another upon a supporting surface, with their base walls lowermost,

b) moving at least one floor extender section of the lowermost container, that
10 will provide the lowermost first level of the building structure, into a generally horizontal extended position that is generally horizontally aligned with the base wall of that container and provides an extended floor portion for that lowermost first level,

c) mounting first level support members on said extended floor portion to
15 provide support for the extended floor portion of the next higher second level, and

d) then moving at least one floor extender section of the next higher container, that will provide the next higher second level of the building structure, into a generally horizontal extended position where it is generally horizontally
20 aligned with the base wall of that second level container, it provides an extended floor portion for that second level, which is also a ceiling for the lowermost first level, it is generally vertically aligned with said next lower first level extended floor portion, and it is supported by said first level support members.

25 2. The method of Claim 1 for adding a third level to the building structure, said method comprising the further steps of:

e) stacking a third one of said shipping containers atop said second level container,

f) mounting second level support members on said extended floor portion of
30 said second level to provide support for the extended floor portion of the next higher third level,

g) moving at least one floor extender section of the next higher container, that will provide the third level of the building structure, into a generally horizontal extended position where it is generally horizontally aligned with the base wall
35 of the third level container and it provides an extended floor portion for the third level, it is generally vertically aligned with the extended floor portion of the next lower second container, and it is supported by said second level support members.

3. The method of Claim 2 for adding a fourth level to the building structure, said method comprising the further steps of:

h) stacking a fourth one of said shipping containers atop said third level container,

i) mounting third level support members on said extended floor portion of said third level to provide support for the extended floor portion of the next higher fourth level, and

j) moving at least one floor extender section of the next higher container, that will provide the fourth level of the building structure, into a generally horizontal extended position where it is generally horizontally aligned with the base wall of that fourth level container, it provides an extended floor portion for that fourth level, it is generally vertically aligned with the extended floor portion of next lowest third level container, and it is supported by said third level support members.

4. The method of Claim 3 for adding additional levels to the building structure, said method comprising the further steps of:

k) stacking one or more additional of said shipping containers atop said fourth level container, and

l) for each added level, starting with the lowest added level,

mounting added level support members on the extended floor portion of the next lowest level container to provide support for the extended floor portion of that next added level container,

moving at least one floor extender section of that added level

container, that will provide the next higher level of the building

structure, into a generally horizontal extended position where it is generally horizontally aligned with the base wall of that added level container, it provides an extended floor portion for that added level container, it is generally vertically aligned with the extended floor portion of the next lowest level, and it is supported by said added level support members,

5. The method of Claim 1 wherein:

said containers contain side walls panels and roof panels to provide exterior side walls and a roof for the extended portion of the assembled building structure, the added steps of:

positioning and securing the side wall panels in generally upright positions between said extended floor portions to provide side walls for the extended portion, and positioning and securing roof sections to the side walls panels of the uppermost level to provide a roof for extended portion of the building structure.

6. The method of Claim 5 wherein the upright side wall panels are positioned and secured at the first level only after the floor extender panels of the next higher second level has been moved into opened, extended position.

7. The method of Claim 1 wherein the upright side wall panels are positioned and secured at the first level before the floor extender section of the next higher second level has been moved to its opened, extended position.

8. The method of Claim 2 wherein the containers contain side wall panels and such side wall panels are positioned and secured at the first and second levels only after the floor extender sections for the second and third levels have both been moved to their opened, extended positions.

9. The method of Claim 3 wherein the containers contain side wall panels and such side wall panels are positioned and secured at the first, second, and third levels only after the floor extender sections for second, third and fourth levels have all been moved to their opened, extended positions.

10. The method of Claim 1 wherein the components are releasably connected for subsequent disassembly and repackaging in the containers.

11. Apparatus in the form of shippable building containers transformable to construct a multi-level building structures of a scale suitable to accommodate human beings, said apparatus comprising:

a) a plurality of shippable building containers for being shipped to a desired location, opened at that location, and assembled to construct a multi-level building structure of a scale suitable to accommodate human beings, each of said building containers comprising generally rectangular box-like open structural frame which supports panels to provide exterior walls that combine to form an enclosure, each of said containers providing a level for the building structure, one of said exterior walls for each container being a generally flat exterior base wall, at least one other of said exterior walls for each container being a movable floor extender wall movably connected to its container and movable to an extended generally horizontal position where it is generally horizontally aligned with its base wall and provides an extended floor portion for that level, and it is generally vertically aligned with extended floor portions of other levels, and

b) support members mountable on said extended floor portions at at least all levels except the uppermost level to provide support for the vertically aligned extended floor portions of the levels above it.

12. The apparatus of Claim 11 wherein said support members at each level comprise a set of elongated poles each adapted to fixedly connect at either end to one of said extended floor portions.

5 13. The apparatus of Claim 11 wherein said building containers also comprise wall sections connectable at the time of assembly to said extended floor portions to provide generally upright outside walls for extended portions of said assembled building structure.

10 14. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said building containers also comprise roof sections connectable at the time of assembly to said extended floor portions to provide a roof for extended portions of said assembled building structure.

15 15. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein said building containers are reusable, said base wall sections, said upright wall sections, and said roof sections being configured and arranged to be releasably connected to one another at the time of assembly.

16. The apparatus of Claim 11 wherein there are at least two movable floor extender walls on each container.